

EFFECT OF WEATHER ON CROPS AND FARMING OPERATIONS, FEBRUARY, 1920.

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The weather during February, 1920, permitted of the usual seasonal farm work, except that heavy sleet and snow interfered with out-door activities in the Northeast, and, owing to frequent rains little field work was possible during the latter part of the month in the more eastern sections of the country, particularly in the Southeast. At the close of the month field work was generally backward in the Southern States, due to frequent rains and wet soil. Corn planting was begun in the more Southern districts during the last half of the month, but at a considerably later date than usual. Some cotton was planted the latter part of the month.

The month as a whole was fairly favorable for winter wheat, although the alternate freezing and thawing the latter part was unfavorable in some sections, particularly in portions of the Ohio Valley, while the crop was unfavorably affected by lack of moisture in portions of Kansas and in California. Winter grains in general made satisfactory progress in the Southern States and

were well protected by snow in the more northern districts. The seeding of spring grains made satisfactory progress in the Southwest, but this work was delayed in the Southeast on account of rainy weather and wet soil.

The month was generally favorable for stock in the western grazing districts, except the range was unfavorably affected by drought in California. The grazing area was extended considerably by the disappearance of snow and stock were reported in generally good condition. Under the influence of mild weather alfalfa and range grass in the Southwest started growth the latter half of the month. Conditions were generally favorable for lambing.

It was mostly favorable for truck crops in the South, except that low temperatures were harmful in the Southeast about the middle of the month and again near its close, when frost did considerable damage to tender truck. Some damage also was done to fruit, but no widespread harm to this crop was reported.